

# Useful Features - Overview

This section describes special features that make work with Natural more comfortable. There are three categories of special features:

- Handling and navigational features
- Functional features
- Additional features in lists

The lists below present these features at a glance:

These features are described in more detail in the following subsections. For special features concerning command input, see Section Command Logic.

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## Handling and Navigational Features

- Working in Split-Screen Mode  
Two Natural sessions displayed on your screen simultaneously;
- Multi-Session Operations  
Managing several Natural sessions from one terminal;
- Selecting a Function or Object  
Easy selection of an object or function through extensive use of prompt windows;
- ENTRY as Line Command  
Display Entry Panel with object parameter fields filled;
- Cursor-Sensitive String Selection - ":C Directive"  
A feature for easy substitution of a symbol in a command sequence with a string selected by the cursor;
- Automatic Transfer of Commands  
Entering a command in the current facility to execute it in another;
- Command Redisplay Feature  
Redisplay the last 10 commands using the LAST session command and modify and/or reexecute any command;
- Editor Sessions  
Editor commands that do not change the data can be used on lists (for example, FIND, HEX, LOCATE, CREATE, as well as C or CC line commands).
- Editor Session with No Prefix  
The PREFIX OFF command eliminates the prefix area in edit or browse sessions. The full Editor screen is then used for edit or browse.
- Online Help Facility  
Advanced online help for explanations and easy selection of items;
- Online Technical and Site-Specific Information  
System information provided for debugging, and a special facility for the provision of site-specific information;
- Confirmation Windows  
Optional use of confirmation windows for sensitive functions such as DELETE;
- Using the Trace Function  
Message informing you of Natural activity;
- Break in Processing  
Abort Natural activity if it takes too long or has been started by mistake.
- Automatic Screen Refresh  
Refresh the screen every *nn* seconds to display the most up-to-date information (for example, the most recent messages on the console).

## Functional Features

- Versioning  
Retrieval and maintenance of previous versions of edited objects;
- Recovery  
Recovery of lost files after abnormal termination;
- Copying Objects  
Comfortable storing of one object type as another object type;
- Printing Objects  
Easy printing of an object, as a whole or of selected lines;
- Natural Interface to External Environments  
Easy transfer of data to and from the PC and Software AG's office system Con-nect;
- Message Switching  
Using the SEND command, messages can be sent to TSO or Com-plete users;
- Using the Calculator  
The CALC session command displays a calculator for computing in numeric or hexadecimal format;
- Using the Macro Facility  
Automatic generation of source using special macro-type programs and variables;
- Executing Command Scripts  
Read and execute scripts of Natural commands using the PLAY command. Sequences of main commands can be recorded as a script using the RECORD command.

## Additional Features in Lists

- ALL Command for Lists  
Execute a command or command sequence for all objects shown in the list
- LAYOUT Command for Lists  
Define a personal layout for all lists of objects displayed by Natural;
- RELIST Command for Lists
- SORT Command for Lists  
A special SORT command allows you to sort lists in descending or ascending order, according to information displayed (for example, date).